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EXAMINER

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2614

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1-3, 16, 21-23, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,091,808) in view of Yablon (U.S. Patent 5,764,731).

Referring to claim 1, Wood teaches a method for enabling a caller ("a person at home who has accesses to web browser 12 and telephone 10") using a computer system comprising: providing a contact list (in "web facility 22", i.e. telephone number for Pizza place and see Abstract, lines 4-5) in which a called party can store a list of two or more contacts ("web facility 22 connected the call control system 32 that supports database 42" and see Abstract); and upon receiving a request the telephone connection message, referring to said contact list to automatically attempt to locate the called party (from the "web browser" to the "web facility" via network (web)) via a first contact method, the second contact method is via path 14 of Fig. 1, i.e. by telephone, fax, etc...; a response to the telephone connection message from the network (web) to a web browser and attempt to reach the called party (col. 2, lines 13-16) by clicking the DIAL button (col. 6, lines 42-55).

Wood does not teach locating the called party but rather the method of making a telephone connection facilitating the computer network facility to a telephone switch via a switch computer interface, in response to which the switch sets up the desired telephone connection to the called party in the same manner as if the called party number had been dialed by the subscriber at the telephone; and receiving a response to the message from the person other than the caller.

Yablon teaches receiving a response to the message from the person other than the caller (col. 6, lines 5-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method for providing telephone call control and information as described in Wood for locating the called party in order to have a complete and sufficient system and incorporate the teachings of Yablon into the teachings of Wood for the purpose of locating the unavailable called party via a third party.

Referring to claims 2 and 3, Wood teaches contact list manager comprises: one or more contact methods for each contact; and one or more rules applicable to contacts and contact methods regarding when or how to send a locator request one or more contact methods is one or more methods selected from the group consisting of one or more telephone numbers (col. 9, lines 46-57).

Claim 16 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Wood teaches the first destination is the "network (web)" and the second destination is the "telephone switch 16 (central office, PSTN, or a PBX...)" reads

Art Unit: 2614

on claimed "the first and second destinations are of different multimedia types"; and Wood teaches when a caller access the web browser would send out a location request to database 42 in the call control system 32 that connected to the web facility 22 to locate the called party.

Referring to claim 21, Wood teach the telephone number information can comprise a personal telephone directory of the subscriber (col. 2, lines 24-25); and the caller would have the option to pick up the phone 10 and dial the full telephone number to reach the called party or click a dial button that triggers the telephone switch to set up a telephone connection between the subscriber's telephone 10 and the called party. However, Wood does teach the second contact method includes a telephone number is entered in full by a responding party. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the feature of entering in full a telephone number by a responding party in Wood's system in order to have a more diversity and better system.

Referring to claim 22, Wood teaches the first contact method is via network (web). Obviously, an e-mail address is part of accessing the Internet or network (web).

Referring to claim 23, Wood teaches automatically extracting the second contact method from the response (col. 2, lines 13-16).

Referring to claim 26, Wood does not teach recording and playing the response for the caller. Since Wood's system would allow subscriber to click a DIAL button to automatically connect to the called party or one may choose to pick up the phone and dial the number. Therefore, there is no need to record the second contact method and playing the response for the caller.

Referring to claim 27, Wood teaches using first contact method via network (web) and second contact method via "telephone switch" to make a telephone connection between the calling and called party reads on claimed "concurrently sending messages to each of at least two contacts of the two or more contacts in response to a single request to locate a called party".

3. Claims 4, 17-20, 28, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,091,808) in view of Yablon (U.S. Patent 5,764,731) and further in view of Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,329,578).

Referring to claim 4, Wood does not teach contact list database stores additional contact information designating the conditions for usage of the contacts or the contact methods.

Brennan teaches contact list database stores additional contact information designating the conditions for usage (Table 4.0 and col. 7, lines 47-60) of the contacts or the contact methods.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Brennan into the teachings of Wood and Yablon for the purpose of having a list of contact information designating the conditions for usage in order to provide special treatment for urgency calls.

Referring to claim 17, Brennan teaches one or more contact lists (Table 5.0) associated with one or more called parties; and one or more rule sets (col. 7, lines 47-50) associated with one or more called parties.

Art Unit: 2614

Referring to claim 18, Brennan teaches one or more system or group contact lists (Table 2.0, other devices) providing contacts that are applicable to more than one called party; and one or more system or group rule sets (Table 4.0, entries under Day & Time) applicable to more than one called party.

Referring to claim 19, Brennan teaches an interface for receiving one or more responses (col. 10, lines 34-43) to location requests; and a presentation module (col. 13, line 68 through col. 14, line 3) for presenting responses to a caller.

Claim 20 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 6.

Claim 28 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 6.

Referring to claim 33, Wood teaches communicating the telephone connection message using the web browser reads on claimed "the first and second contact methods is an address for text-based messaging".

4. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,091,808) in view of Yablon (U.S. Patent 5,764,731) and further in view of Cheston,III et al. (U.S. Patent 6,330,308).

Referring to claim 24, Wood does not teach the first contact method is a telephone number, the second contact method is a telephone number spoken verbally by a responding party via telephone, and said automatically extracting said second contact method from the response includes using speech recognition software to extract the second contact method.

Cheston, III teaches an automated directory assistance system to obtain called party telephone number from directory assistance system using speech recognition capabilities. The directory service system retrieves the number for the destination (col. 7, lines 20-33) reads on claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Cheston into the teachings of Wood and Yablon for the purpose of combining voice recognition system for automatically extracting the second contact method into the system to locate the called party to provide a diversity system with a wide variety of options for locating the called party.

5. Claims 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,091,808) in view of Yablon (U.S. Patent 5,764,731) and further in view of Herbst (U.S. Patent 4,941,170).

Referring to claim 25, Wood does not teach the automatically processing the response comprises automatically extracting the second contact method using optical recognition software.

Herbst teaches a facsimile transmissions system that decodes a mark sense cover sheet facsimile data to be accessed by numerous conventional facsimile machines with no specialize adaptations to the facsimile machines. Also no modifications need to be made to the electronic mail system; the facsimile controller is programmed to provide it with the sender identity a destination address as needed by the electronic mail system reads on claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Herbst into the teaching of Wood and Yablon for the purpose of to automatically extracting the second contact method is using optical recognition software.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,091,808) in view of Yablon (U.S. Patent 5,764,731) and further in view of Kugell et al. (U.S. Patent 5,802,160).

Referring to claim 5, Brennan et al. teaches automatic attempting to locate said called party comprises: automatically sending one or more messages (Table 4.0, treatment and col. 7, lines 58-60) to parties listed in a contact list requesting location information (Table 4.0, day, time, treatment) regarding said called party, receiving responses to said one or more messages and presenting a response to a calling party (col.13, line 63 through col. 14, line 5).

Wood and Yablon do not teach canceling outstanding messages when a response is received.

Kugell teaches a method and system for providing telephone service wherein a plurality of telephone numbers are simultaneously signaled to allow a calling party to find a called party and after the signaling at least one of the plurality numbers is terminated, others would stop ringing read on claimed "canceling outstanding messages when a response is received".

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Kugell into the teachings of Wood

Art Unit: 2614

and Yablon for the purpose of canceling outstanding contact messages once the party of interest has been located to save the system's resources allocation.

7. Claims 6, 9-15, 29-32, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,091,808) in view of Yablon (U.S. Patent 5,764,731) and further in view of Kugell et al. (U.S. Patent 5,802,160) and further in view of Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,329,578).

Claim 6 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 5. Furthermore, Wood, Yablon, and Kugell do not teach the method for locating a called party.

Brennan teaches the method for locating a called party.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made incorporate the method for locating the called party as described in Kugell's system into the teachings of Wood, Yablon, and Kugell in order to have a complete and sufficient system.

Referring to claim 9, Brennan teaches a called party is identified and identities of called parties (Table 4.0, Day and Time) are used in part to determine system behavior (Table 4.0, Treatment and Urgency).

Referring to claim 10, Brennan teaches called party may configure system behavior for a calling party (col. 4, line 67 through col. 5, line 2 and Table 1.0).

Referring to claim 11, Brennan teaches messages are predetermined prior to receiving said request (col. 10, lines 37-48).

Referring to claim 12, Brennan teaches the prompt play back unit and these prompts are usually the ones provide by the service provider with information regarding the called party (col. 10, lines 34-43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the parties on the contact list may also submit responses to the messages with information regarding the called party.

Referring to claim 13, Brennan teaches the calling party is automatically notified of said responses (col. 10, lines 34-37), responses contain a contact method for reaching the called party (col. 6, lines 42-45), the last limitation is rejected for the same reasons as claim 6.

Referring to claims 14 and 15 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 13.

Claim 29 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 16 and Brennan teaches the address is verbally entered by a responding party to indicate the location of the called party (col. 10, lines 34-43).

Claims 30 and 35 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 33.

Claim 31 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 24 and 25.

Claim 32 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 23.

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent 6,091,808) in view of Yablon (U.S. Patent 5,764,731) and further in view

Art Unit: 2614

of Kugell et al. (U.S. Patent 5,802,160) in view of Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,329,578) and further in view of Will (U.S. Patent 5,905,789).

Referring to claim 7, Wood, Yablon, Kugell and Brennan do not teach allowing a called party to configure contact list.

Will teaches called party can configure contact list (col. 4, lines 54-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Will into the teachings of Wood, Yablon, Kugell, and Brennan for the purpose of letting user create/configure contact list in order to suit his/her needs.

Response to Arguments

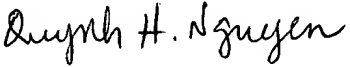
9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 9-33, and 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's arguments are addressed in the above claims rejection.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:15 A.M. to 5:45 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan, can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


qhn

Quynh H. Nguyen

May 30, 2006